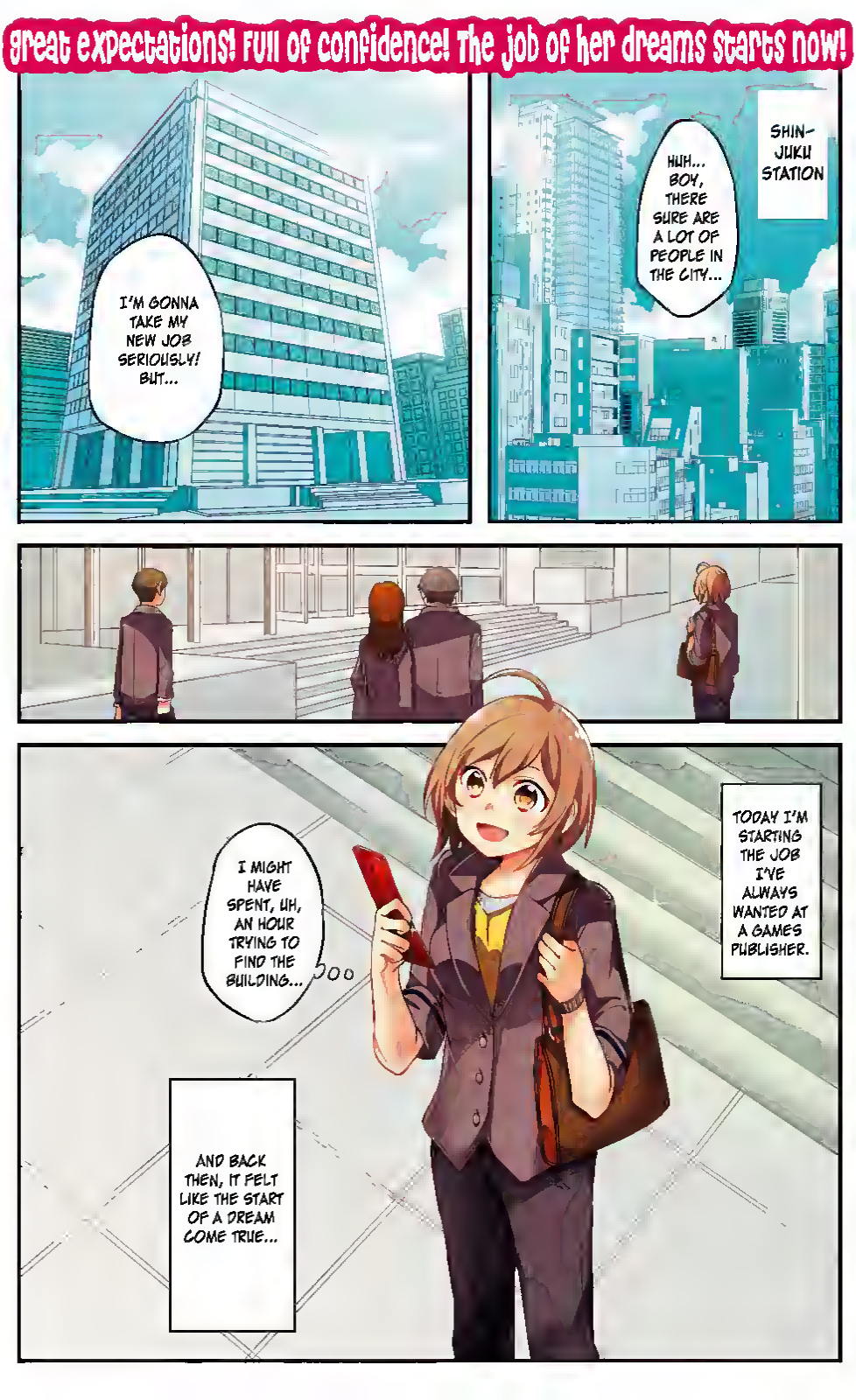
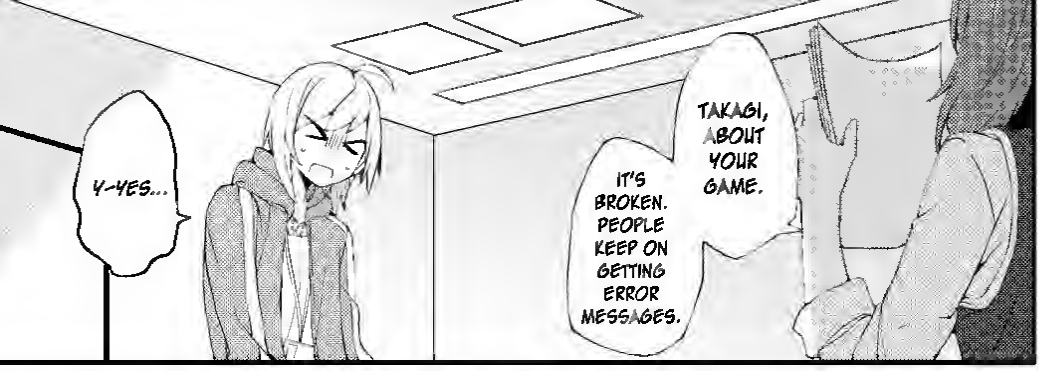
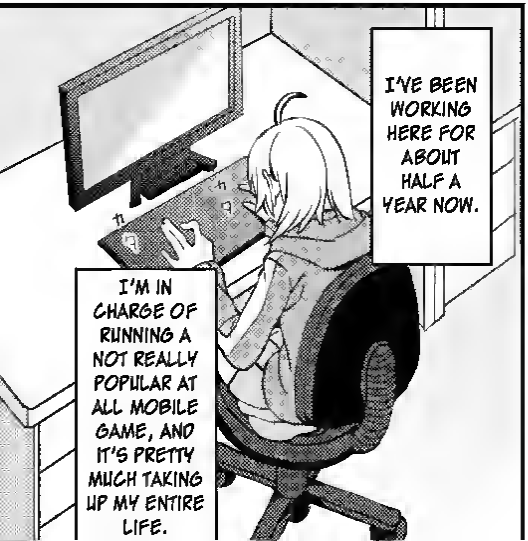

great expectations! full of confidence! the job of her dreams starts now!
I'M GONNA TAKE MY NEW JOB SERIOUSLY! BUT...
SHIN-JUKU STATION
HUH... BOY, THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE CITY...
TODAY I'M STARTING THE JOB I'VE ALWAYS WANTED AT A GAMES PUBLISHER.
I MIGHT HAVE SPENT, UH, AN HOUR TRYING TO FIND THE BUILDING...
AND BACK THEN, IT FELT LIKE THE START OF A DREAM COME TRUE...

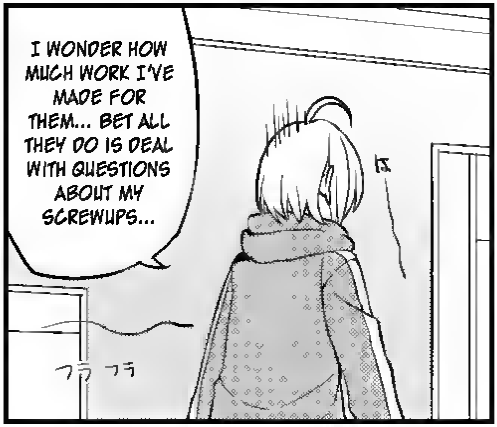
An office full of romance?
MORE LIKE A WAR ZONE!
月刊化記念⑩本新連載第7弾!!
Now Loading!!
GAME 1
PRESENTED BY MIKANUJI
みかん氏
Join us on the frontlines of a game that combines reality and fantasy.
Here's to her success! Her story begins now!!


TAKAGI, ABOUT YOUR GAME.
IT'S BROKEN. PEOPLE KEEP ON GETTING ERROR MESSAGES.
Y-YES...

Eek!
DO YOU REALISE HOW MUCH OF A HEADACHE THAT CAUSES FOR US IN CUSTOMER SERVICE?
I'LL MAKE SURE I DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN...!
プルプル

FOR EVERY BUG, WE GET AROUND A HUNDRED PEOPLE SENDING CONFUSED EMAILS OUR WAY.
どどどどどどどど

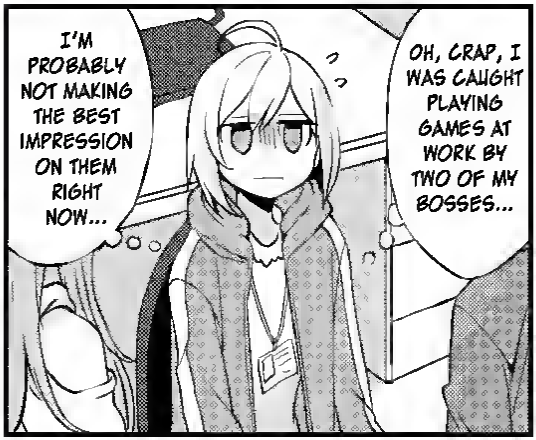

I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE FOR ABOUT HALF A YEAR NOW.
I'M IN CHARGE OF RUNNING A NOT REALLY POPULAR AT ALL MOBILE GAME, AND IT'S PRETTY MUCH TAKING UP MY ENTIRE LIFE.


I WONDER HOW MUCH WORK I'VE MADE FOR THEM... BET ALL THEY DO IS DEAL WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT MY SCREWUPS...
フラフラ

WELL, I SAY 'IN CHARGE',
BUT BASICALLY ALL I DO IS PUSH SOME MINOR EVENTS AND UPDATES IN THE GAME...
JEEZ, IT BARELY GETS ANY NEW DOWNLOADS AT THIS POINT.
NOOOO TIME FOR MOANING! GOTTA THINK UP SOME NEW EVENTS TO THROW IN THE GAME!
IT'S FUN TO DESIGN NEW LEVELS AND STUFF, BUT
HOW AM I ACTUALLY GONNA GET MORE PEOPLE PLAYING IT?
HMM. GONNA GAME FOR A BIT.

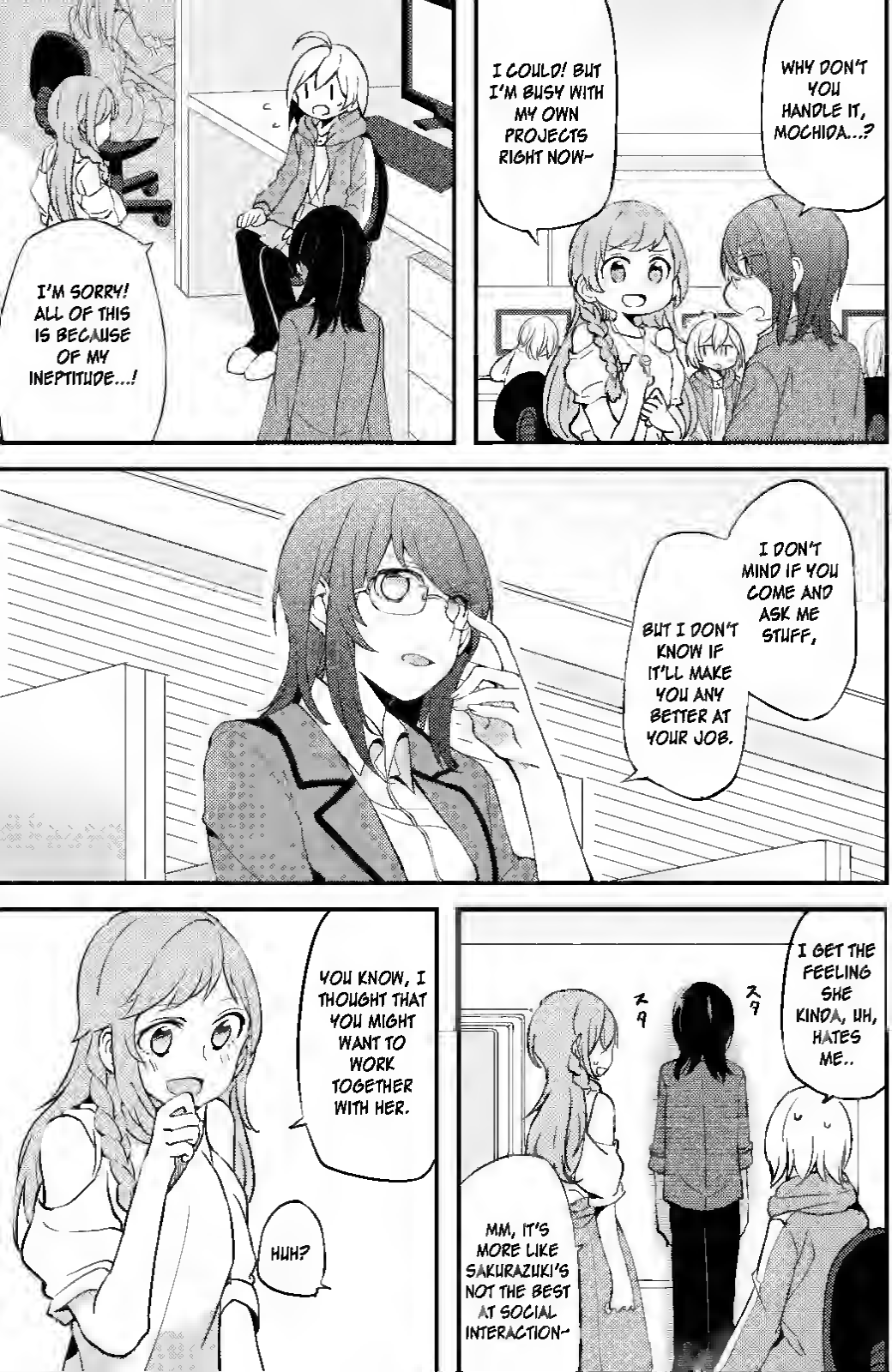
THE THING WITH ROGUE-LIKES IS THAT YOU NEVER WANNA STOP PLAYING 'EM.
I COULD JUST ZONE OUT FOREVER...
I LOVE THIS GAME...
Looking for inspiration sure is fun...
あ～
punchy
Ah--

YOU WERE GETTING PRETTY INTO THAT GAME.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT TIME ON YOUR HANDS.
DIRECTOR
SAKURAZUKI KAORI
FROM MANAGEMENT
MOCHIDA AYUMI

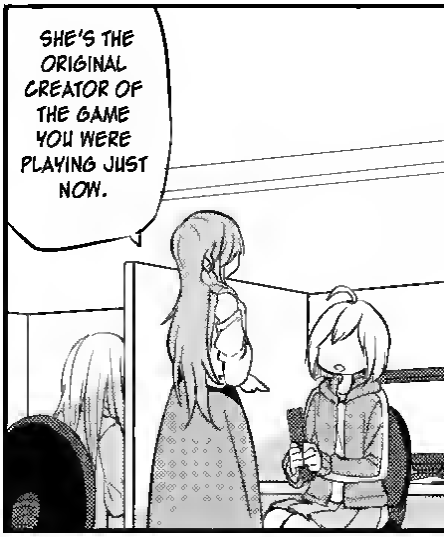

I'M PROBABLY NOT MAKING THE BEST IMPRESSION ON THEM RIGHT NOW...
OH, CRAP, I WAS CAUGHT PLAYING GAMES AT WORK BY TWO OF MY BOSSES...

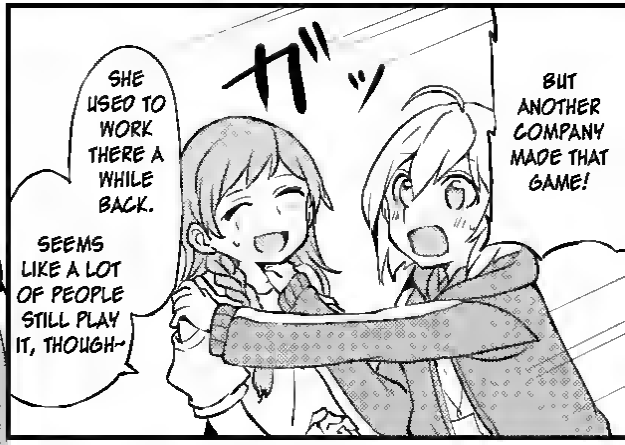
...
DIDN'T YOU SAY PLAYING GAMES WAS PART OF THE JOB?
LOOK AT TAKAGI! POOR THING LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOING TO WITHER AWAY AT THIS RATE.

APPARENTLY YOU MAKE A LOT OF MISTAKES ON THE JOB, TAKAGI.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE WORTH YOU GOING UNDER THE DIRECTOR'S WING FOR A BIT~


I'M SORRY! ALL OF THIS IS BECAUSE OF MY INEPTITUDE...!
I COULD! BUT I'M BUSY WITH MY OWN PROJECTS RIGHT NOW~
WHY DON'T YOU HANDLE IT, MOCHIDA...?
I DON'T MIND IF YOU COME AND ASK ME STUFF,
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL MAKE YOU ANY BETTER AT YOUR JOB.
YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH HER.
HUH?
I GET THE FEELING SHE KINDA, UH, HATES ME..
スタ
スタ
MM, IT'S MORE LIKE SAKURAZUKI'S NOT THE BEST AT SOCIAL INTERACTION~

CORO IS A FAMOUS ROGUELIKE DUNGEON EXPLORATION GAME THAT ACCRUED OVER A MILLION DOWN
SAKURAZUKI'S BEHIND "CORO'S DUNGEON ADVENTURE"!?


SHE'S THE ORIGINAL CREATOR OF THE GAME YOU WERE PLAYING JUST NOW.

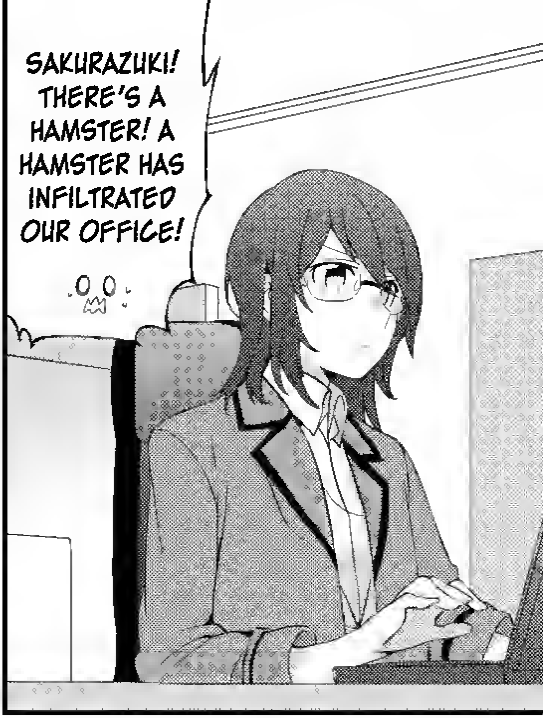

SHE USED TO WORK THERE A WHILE BACK.
SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL PLAY IT, THOUGH~
BUT ANOTHER COMPANY MADE THAT GAME!

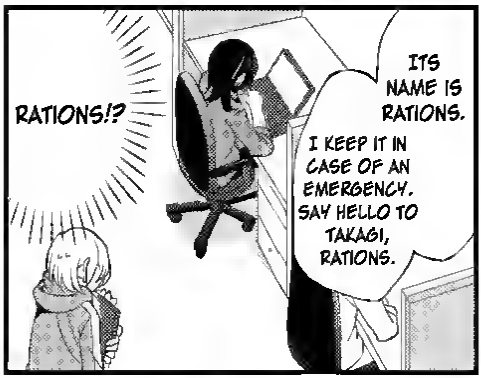
THE CREATOR OF MY FAVOURITE GAME EVER
IS GONNA GIVE ME SOME PERSONAL GUIDANCE. THAT'S AMAZING...

I PLAYED IT BACK EVEN WHEN I HAD A TERRIBLE OLD PHONE...
YOU CERTAINLY SEEM TO LIKE IT...

UM... SAKURA-ZUKI!
IS NOW, UH, FINE?
ヒョイ
...YOU ACTUALLY CAME TO ASK ME SOME-THING?
ヒ
I-I DID, YES! I'M SORRY! I DON'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR TIME! I'LL COME WHEN YOU'RE FREE!
WAIT A COUPLE MINUTES. I'M NEARLY FREE NOW.
Y-YES! I'LL WAIT!
うーん
I GUESS SHE'S NOT ONE FOR SMALL TALK, HUH...
PFF

...FIRST OFF, THAT'S A DEGU, NOT A HAMSTER.

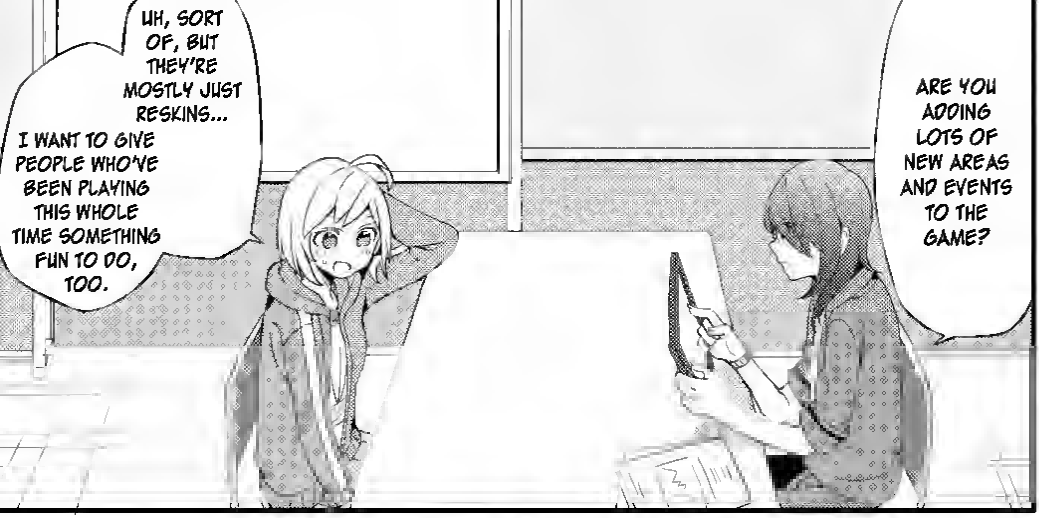

SAKURAZUKI! THERE'S A HAMSTER! A HAMSTER HAS INFILTRATED OUR OFFICE!


ITS NAME IS RATIONS.
I KEEP IT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. SAY HELLO TO TAKAGI, RATIONS.
RATIONS!?

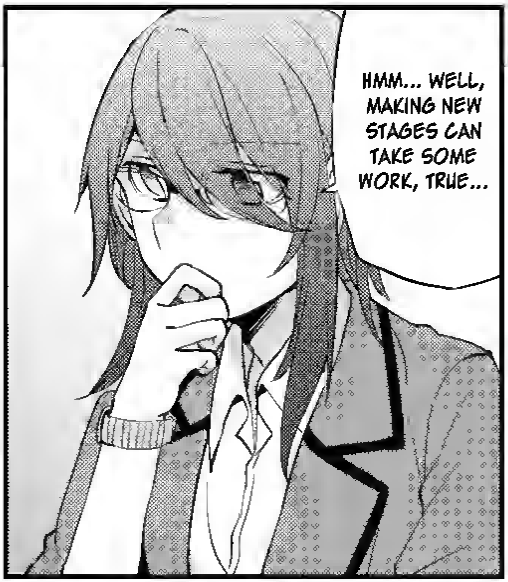
HOW TO GET MORE PEOPLE PLAYING YOUR GAME, HUH.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT...
WORD OF MOUTH CAN WORK SOMETIMES, BUT WHAT YOU REALLY NEED IS GOOD MARKETING.

I'M GOING TO BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU - IF YOUR GAME'S BEEN OUT FOR AROUND A YEAR,
AND YOU'RE STILL LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET PEOPLE ACTUALLY PLAYING IT, THE OUTLOOK'S NOT GREAT.


ARE YOU ADDING LOTS OF NEW AREAS AND EVENTS TO THE GAME?
UH, SORT OF, BUT THEY'RE MOSTLY JUST RESKINS...
I WANT TO GIVE PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS WHOLE TIME SOMETHING FUN TO DO, TOO.

I WAS... TRYING TO TAKE SOME INSPIRATION FROM THE GAME YOU MADE...
EH?


HMM... WELL, MAKING NEW STAGES CAN TAKE SOME WORK, TRUE...

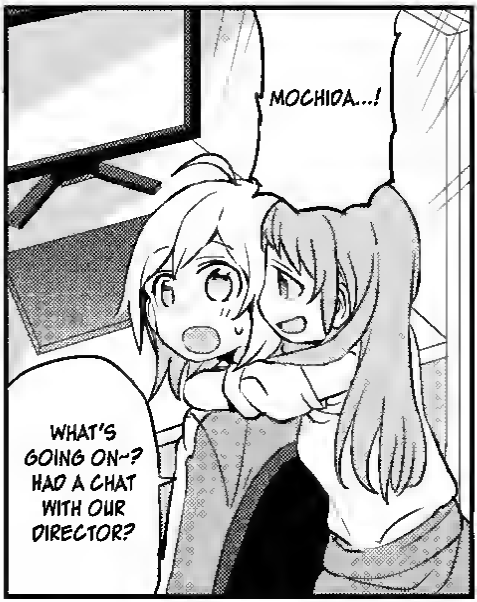
I MEAN, OUR GAMES ARE ON TOTALLY DIFFERENT SCALES, AND MINE IS NOTHING IN COMPARISON, BUT

I THOUGHT IF I TRIED WORKING AS HARD AS YOU DO,
THEN I COULD MAKE THE GAME I WANTED TO. ONE THAT PLAYERS REALLY LOVE...
I THOUGHT IF I COULD MAKE SOMETHING REALLY INTERESTING, THEN PEOPLE WOULD WANT TO DOWNLOAD IT!
AND THEN I'D FINALLY GET ONTO THOSE POPULAR APP RANKINGS! IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE!
ガタッ
I HAVE JUST ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOU.

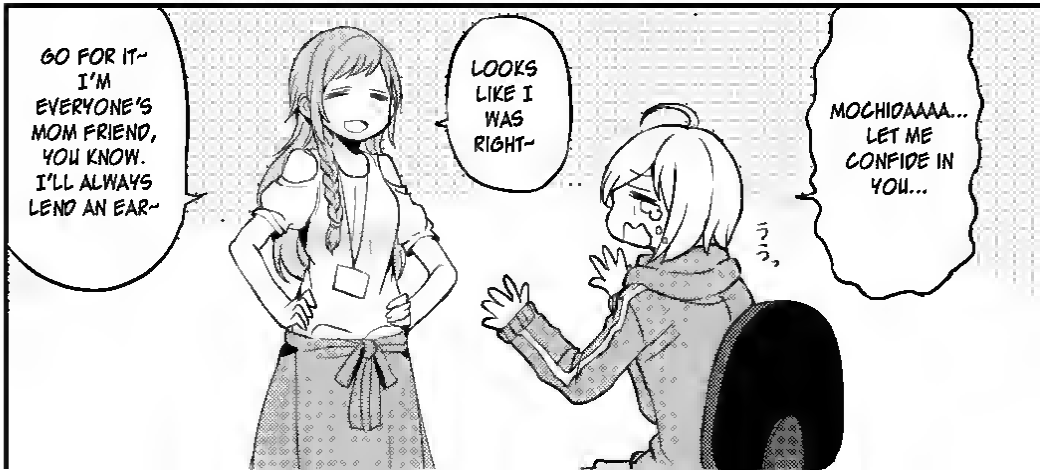
IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW IN THIS INDUSTRY.
AND IT'S THAT YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED TO YOUR GAMES.
IT'LL ONLY COME TO HURT YOU IN THE END.
I'LL SEND YOU SOME STUFF THAT'S WORTH TAKING A LOOK AT.
slam
Sakura--
Sa--

She's sent me a lot of stuff to reference, actually...
I WANT TO GO APOLOGISE TO HER BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M APOLOGISING FOR. I KNOW I DID SOMETHING BAD, BUT YEAH...

SAKURA-ZUKI DEFINITELY DOESN'T LIKE ME...

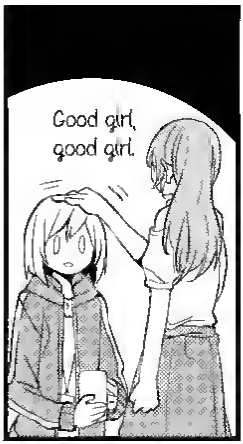

MOCHIDA...!
WHAT'S GOING ON~? HAD A CHAT WITH OUR DIRECTOR?

TAKAAAAGI.
Ah!


GO FOR IT~ I'M EVERYONE'S MOM FRIEND, YOU KNOW. I'LL ALWAYS LEND AN EAR~
LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT~
MOCHIDAAAA... LET ME CONFIDE IN YOU...

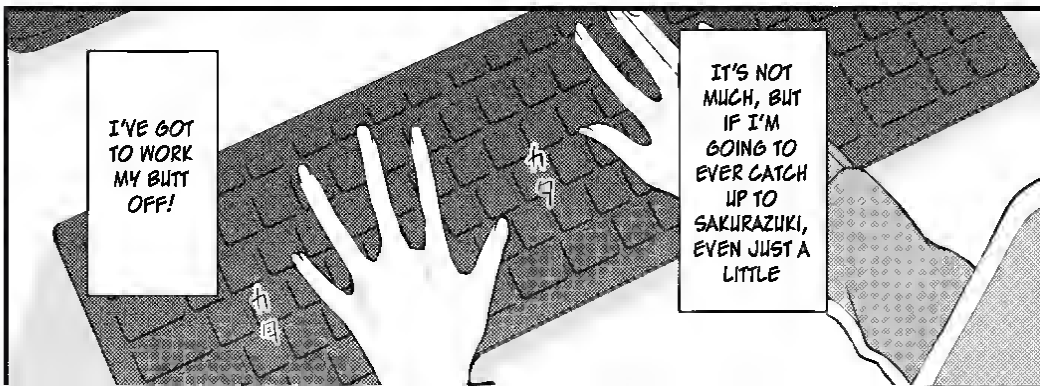
Eh?
R-really?
I SEE- YOU'VE GOT IT ROUGH, TAKAGI.
YOU REMIND ME OF SAKURAZUKI A FEW YEARS BACK-
コポポポ
SO COOL!
YOU'VE GOT GOOD INTENTIONS, AND THE RIGHT WORK ETHIC.
HOWEVER, SAKURAZUKI SAID WHAT SHE DID FOR A REASON.
SHE HAS A FAIRLY HARSH WAY OF PUTTING THINGS, TRUE,
BUT PLEASE DON'T HATE HER FOR IT.
IT'S JUST, WHEN I STARTED HERE,
THERE WAS SO MUCH I DIDN'T GET ABOUT HOW TO MAKE A GAME. I WAS LOST.
OH, NO, I MEAN, I DON'T HATE HER OR ANYTHING...

BUT I STILL LIKE GAMES, EVEN AFTER ALL THAT! AND THAT'S BECAUSE
SAKURAZUKI'S GAME KEPT ON REMINDING ME HOW MUCH I REALLY ENJOYED THEM.


Good girl, good girl.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT--
OH, NEVER MIND.

...I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE WOMAN HERSELF, THEN.


IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IF I'M GOING TO EVER CATCH UP TO SAKURAZUKI, EVEN JUST A LITTLE
I'VE GOT TO WORK MY BUTT OFF!

OOH~ TAKAGI'S CERTAINLY PUTTING IN THE HOURS~
WONDER IF THERE'S SOMEONE SHE RESPECTS THAT SHE DESPERATELY WANTS THE APPROVAL OF~
hmm...
I HAVE, UH. THINGS TO DO, SO...
OH, NO, THE WILD KAORI ESCAPED~
I WONDER WHEN KAORI'S GOING TO TELL HER ABOUT THAT...

TAKAGI.
Nooo, I'm already full--
FOLLOW ME.
Y-YES!
I WAS WORKING SO LATE THAT I FELL ASLEEP AT THE OFFICE...
WHAT...? SAKURAZUKI? GOOD MORNING!
...GOOD MORNING.

TAKAGI, YOU CAN MAKE THE GAME ITSELF AS GOOD AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
I'VE SEEN HOW FAR YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF. YOU'RE DEDICATED.
BUT THE ISSUE COMES BACK TO MARKETING, AND PEOPLE ACTUALLY KNOWING ABOUT THE GAME.
MARKET-ING, HUH...

HERE'S SOME SITES THAT DO PIECES AND ARTICLES ON MOBILE GAMES. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PEOPLE YOU SHOULD TALK TO, TOO.
YOU CAN'T JUST MAKE A GOOD GAME. YOU'VE GOT TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T PLAYING THE GAME THAT THE GAME'S ANY GOOD. A GAME CAN LIVE OR DIE ON THAT.
A-ARE YOU REALLY GIVING ME THESE...?!
SHE DID ALL THIS FOR MY SAKE...
WELL, IT'S ONLY RIGHT. YOU ASKED ME FOR ADVICE, AFTER ALL...

YESSSSSS!! PEOPLE ARE DOWNLOADING THE GAME! FINALLY!
ウオー
SHUT UP.
Y-YE-
I did it!!
THE SITES YOU SHOWED ME RAN A FEW FEATURES AND NOW I'M ACTUALLY GETTING MORE DOWNLOADS...!
I'LL DO MY BEST TO KEEP SUPPORTING THIS GAME THROUGH TO THE END OF THE YEAR!
I'M GOING TO PUT AS MUCH COOL STUFF IN IT AS I CAN!
PEOPLE SEEM TO BE ENJOYING THE EVENTS, TOO.
THAT'S THANKS TO YOU TOO...!

ポン
YOU'VE WORKED REALLY, REALLY HARD. WELL DONE.
U-UM.
わしゃ
わしゃ
I THOUGHT HER BEING THIS NICE TO ME WAS KIND OF OUT OF NOWHERE,
BUT I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN REALISING THAT SHE'S A GENUINELY COOL PERSON.
THIS TREATMENT IS KIND OF, UM, EMBARASSING ...

Oho
Please don't cling onto me like that.
Heyyy, Sakurazuki!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A NEW PET.
DON'T SAY THAT! IT'S HARD TO THINK OF A GOOD COMEBACK!
OH, RIGHT, THE CORPORATE BIGWIG PEOPLE WANTED TO TALK TO ME! MAYBE IT'S ABOUT HOW WELL THE EVENT'S DOING!
...PERHAPS.

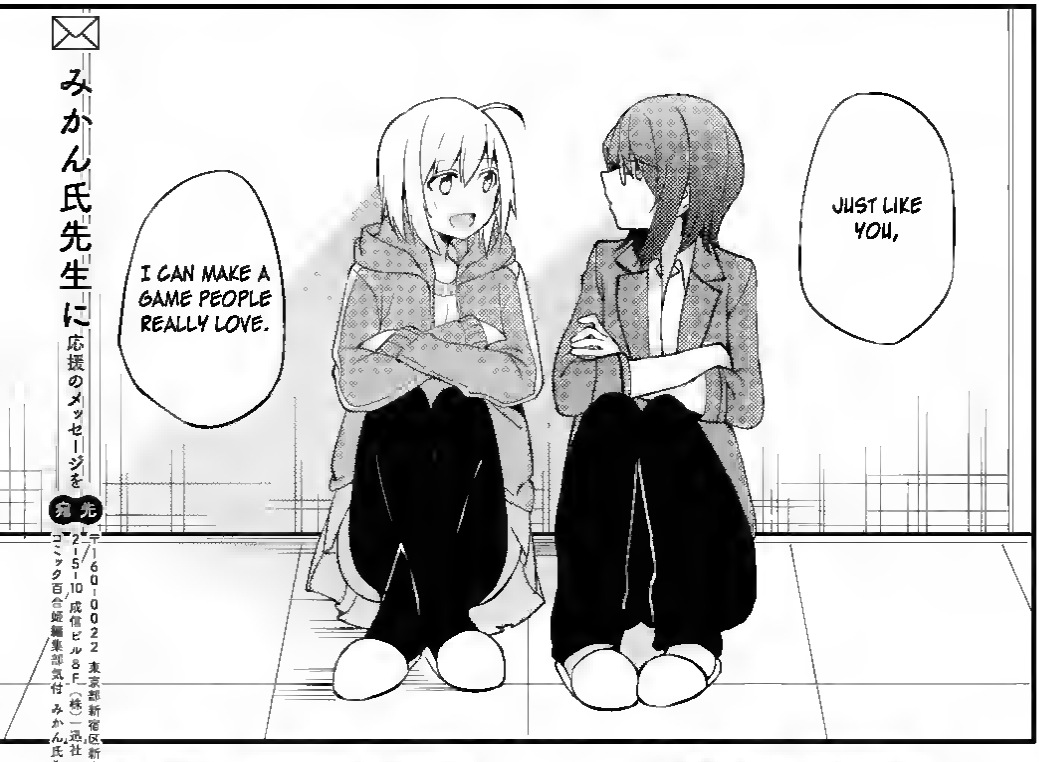
YOU'RE CLOSING DOWN...
THE GAME?
BUT MORE PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY PLAYING IT NOW...
AND EVEN MORE ARE GOING TO SOON...!
YEAH, WE WANT IT OVER AND DONE WITH IN, SAY, TWO MONTHS? MAKE SURE TO ANNOUNCE THAT.
MM, BUT LET'S TALK THE REAL BIG NUMBERS HERE. THE GAME JUST ISN'T MAKING BACK THE SERVER COSTS, SIMPLE AS THAT.
GAME'S NOT PROFITABLE, IT'S OUT THE WINDOW.
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU MEANT TO DO WITH SOMETHING THAT'S MAKING YOU A LOSS?
WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR NEXT PROJECT SOON, SO NO BIG, YEAH?

YES, I GET IT. YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT TEN TIMES ALREADY.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER, KAORI! THIS IS YOUR FAULT!
LIKE I SAID!
!?
Back when YOU were starting out--
WA-WAIT, KAORI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
Eh!?
SORRY! I'LL BE BACK IN A BIT!

PEOPLE WERE WRITING BULLSHIT ONLINE ABOUT HER GAME. THEY ALWAYS DO.
I KNEW THE GAME TAKAGI WAS IN CHARGE OF WAS GOING TO BE SHUT DOWN FROM THE START.
IF I'D TOLD HER...
SOONER OR LATER, ALL OUR GAMES ARE GOING TO END, AND I KNOW THAT...
BUT DOES TAKAGI? DID I NEED TO TELL HER THAT?
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HER. I WAS SCARED OF HAVING TO TELL SOMEONE THAT.
IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW HARD SHE WORKED.
NOTHING WOULD HAVE CHANGED.

TAKAGI!
DON'T DO THIS! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG!
Pff
Pff
--I SAW RATIONS UP HERE AND THOUGHT IT WAS KINDA DANGEROUS, SO...

SAKURAZUKI, YOU KNEW, RIGHT?
ABOUT THE WHOLE GAME BEING SHUT DOWN THING.
BUT YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING FOR MY SAKE.
I'M SORRY... I JUST THOUGHT IT'D HURT IF I TOLD YOU.
AH, NO, IT'S ALL GOOD! I MEAN, YEAH, I'M NOT HURT OR ANYTHING.
HONESTLY, I'M SORRY THAT YOU WASTED YOUR TIME HELPING ME OUT.
AND THIS IS ALL GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE NEXT THING I'M WORKING ON.



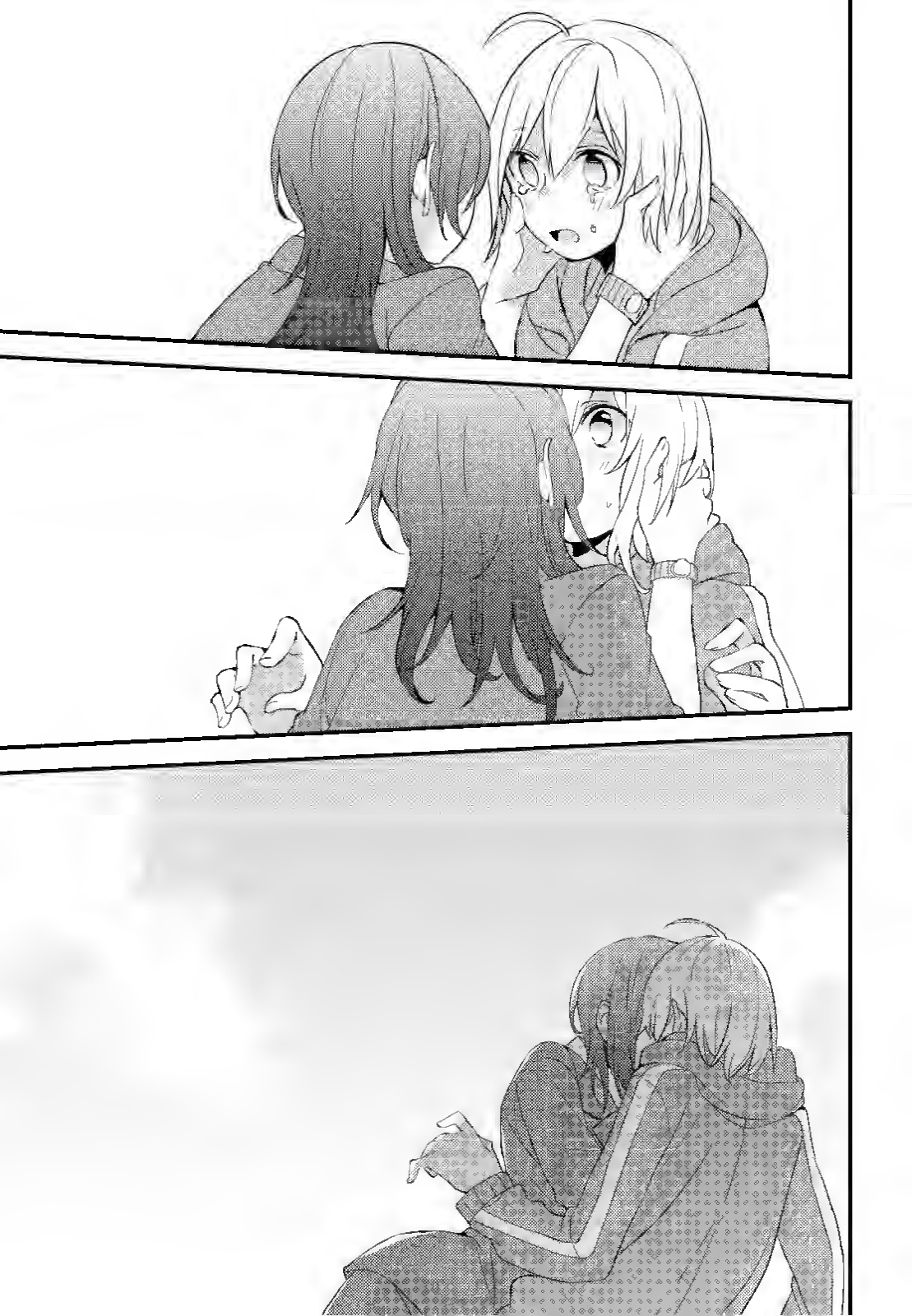
みかん氏先生に応援のメッセージを

〒160-0022 東京都新宿区新宿2-15-10 成信ビル8F (株)一迅社 コミック百合姫編集部気付 みかん氏先生係

ポロ
ポロ
WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?
W-WAIT.
IF YOU WANT TO CRY, CRY.
ギュッ

SORRY ABOUT THE... TEARING UP THING.
I WONDER WHY I DID THAT...
WHEN I'M AROUND YOU, I ALWAYS END UP ACTING LIKE A LITTLE BRAT...

TAKAGI. I LIKE YOU MORE
WHEN YOU'RE SMILING, NOT CRYING.
SAKURAZUKI...



...I'LL BE GOING NOW.
slam
EHHHHHHH!?
UM... UH...
To be continued.

SEXY AKIBA DETECTIVES

TL/Editing
Rankarana

Quality Check
Mean Machinery

Now Loading... ! Chapter 1

New series pickup! Been a while since our last one of these - but as soon as I found out Mikanuji of Probably My Favourite Darinatsu Doujins fame had a YH series (i e literally yesterday) I leapt right onto it. Like Dark Forest I think this is a short-run series, but it's off to a rolling start!

Mild terminology things: they're making mobile games, or 'mobage'. 'Events' are like, limited-time, well, events in the game, like areas or characters or stories or such, which are pretty common in mobage.

See all our releases first at
http://akibadetectives.tumblr.com/